Watco’s Terminal and Port Services Team finds another way to delve into the energy sector. See page 2.
Neodesha shop holds tank car rescue training

When you are training for something you usually have high expectations that the skills you learn will be used often. This isn’t the case with the training that Watco Customers, the Neodesha (Kan.) Mechanical Team, and local emergency responders recently received. The training that they received was tank car rescue training. This training prepares them to be able to properly deal with someone that has had an incident while working inside a tank car.

If a team member is in distress while in a tank car and verbal contact is established, rescuers would then enter the tank and administer first aid as needed until the fire department arrives to extract the team member from the tank car. While practicing this during the training, the average rescue time between 2 1/2 to 3 minutes.

Should a team member go down in a tank car and verbal contact cannot be established it must be assumed that the atmosphere in the tank is not breathable. The team’s purpose in that scenario is to extract the team member as quickly and safely as possible to a safe atmosphere and then administer first aid or make patient comfortable until paramedics arrive.

All team members are trained in tank rescue and new team members watch a training video during the on-boarding process. A video is currently being produced for this training by Jake Renfroe, plant superintendent at the Coffeyville, Kan., shop.

There are six rescue kits strategically placed throughout the Neodesha facility; each department has one primary rescue team consisting of three men with at least one trained in CPR. There is also one secondary team per shift. In the tank rescue kit you will find an oxygen mask and tank with about 10 minutes of air for rescuer, an oxygen mask and 7 minute tank for the man down, a set of cufflings and rope, a fire blanket, a first aid kit and latex gloves, a CPR mask, a headlight, and an air horn for signaling.

The following attended the tank rescue training held on the 11th and 12th of November. Watco Customers from Systec, Donald Adams and John Mruia; Terry Lyons, Emergency Management Coordinator for Wilson County; Mike Woldum, Asst. Fire Chief, Neodesha, and six department members. From the Coffeyville, Kan., mechanical shop attendees were Dion Wilkens, plant manager; Jake Renfroe, supervisor; Kyle Clutter, EHS and six additional team members. Attending from Neodesha were Cliff Hogan EHS, Josiah Gonzalez, TS&IC leader; Steve Ogle, safety ambassador, and 69 team members.

Team members Jamaal Terry and Jason Gafway practice the rescue training methods taught in Neodesha, Kan.

Cherryvale project keeps Pittsburg WTPS Team on the move

Since July of this year the Pittsburg, Kan., Terminal and Port Services Team (WTPS) has been traveling to Cherryvale every day to work on a pipeline related project. The team is unloading crane mats off railcars and delivering them by truckload to Independence, Kan., for Customer Dixie Mats, LLC., out of Columbia, Miss.

The crane mats are delivered to Independence to U.S. Pipeline, the contractor building a pipeline from the midpoint in Missouri to Cushing, Okla. The pipeline is the Flanagan South Pipeline and it begins in Flanagan, Ill., and ends in Cushing. The U.S. Pipeline uses the crane mats to make bridges and to lay down across ditches and along the right of ways for their equipment to work on so they can keep the ground in the best shape as possible.

The team unloaded the first railcar on July 16th and through the end of November they have unloaded 238 cars and delivered 955 truckloads of crane mats. The railcars come inbound on the Kansas City Southern Railway to Pittsburg and then the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) brings them to Cherryvale for unloading. The SKOL built a transloading track for WTPS to use in the Cherryvale yard by the old depot. The railcars are coming from Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia.

Adam Hanson, Pittsburg terminal manager, said, “This project has been a huge success for the Pittsburg terminal. Our best year previously had been roughly 50 railcars unloaded, we’ve already unloaded 238 in a four and a half month span. The best part about this project is that Watco is benefitting off the terminal and port side as well as the transportation side. This ability to touch one Customer with several of our services helps build the relationships for future projects.”

It appears that the team will be driving for a couple more months, the project is expected to continue through January of 2014. Once completed they should come close to hitting 300 railcars for a total of approximately 20,000 mats.

Once the pipeline is constructed there is an opportunity to get the back end of this business by either loading these mats back out on railcars or storing them at our Pittsburg warehouse for the Customer when the project is complete.

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WSOR Team Member recognized by Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s Ben Meighan was recently recognized by the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission. Resolution 2013-3 was passed for his contributions to the Wisconsin rail system.

The Resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2013 - 3
COMMENDING BEN MEIGHAN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WISCONSIN RIVER RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION
WHEREAS, the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission (WRRTC) was created by the counties of Crawford, Dane, Grant, Iowa, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Walworth, and Waukesha for the purpose of providing for the continuance of rail service on the system of rail lines extending between Prairie du Chien, Prairie du Sac, Madison, Watertown, Waukesha, Janesville, Elkhorn, and Walworth in Wisconsin, and Fox Lake in Illinois; and
WHEREAS, the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad assumed operation of the WRRTC system upon acquiring the Wisconsin & Calumet Railroad in 1992; and
WHEREAS, Ben Meighan has worked for Wisconsin & Southern Railroad since 1980 serving as Superintendent of Maintenance of Way for the past 25 years, and proving to be a real champion in preserving, restoring and enhancing our freight rail system in Wisconsin; and
WHEREAS, the WRRTC, its member counties, and the State of Wisconsin have received innumerable benefits from the dedicated service of Ben Meighan over the past 21 years of his service; and
WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the WRRTC that this body should testify to and recognize the contributions of Ben Meighan to the goals of the WRRTC and to the preservation of railroad service in southern Wisconsin; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the WRRTC, in open session assembled, does hereby extend our heartfelt thanks, our heartfelt gratitude, and our very best wishes to our friend, Ben Meighan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be set forth upon the minutes of this meeting, and that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Ben Meighan as a testimony to the great esteem and honor we hold for him.
ADOPTED this 8th Day of November, 2013.

Ben Meighan, WSOR, was recognized by the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission on November 8, 2013. (l-r): Allan Sweeney, vice chairman of Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission; Meighan; and Karl Nilson, chairman of Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission.

The resolution was signed by Karl Nilson, Chair, Gene Gray, Treasurer, and Charles Anderson, Secretary.

It’s Time to Freeze Out Injuries

The winter and holiday season has arrived and this is a time for us all to focus our energies on our daily functions and jobs. Not only can the weather add to our worries on the job, the holidays too can be a distraction. It’s easy to lose focus thinking about decorations to be hung, holiday bills, gift purchasing, holiday parties, and increased family time together. It’s easy to let our attention drift a bit, thinking of all those things.

The jobs we do all everyday require planning and execution. Performing our jobs according to the rules requires us to stay focused, alert and attentive to the task at hand. Even a small, short lapse in concentration puts us and our fellow team members at risk to sustain an injury or accident.

This is why Watco again is bringing in the “FREEZE” Winter Safety Program (Following the Rules Everyday Ensures Zero Errors) to help everyone stay focused through these winter months. This program is to help promote awareness and focus our concentration on the job at hand. It is critical that we all be aware of the consequences of our actions or inactions while on the job. Errors in the jobs our Watco team performs everyday can lead to serious, even fatal consequences.

Not only do we need to increase our focus but we also need to be alert to hazards that are presented due to the changing weather conditions. The winter wonderland created by a blanket of snow may be beautiful but it can also hide many obstacles so be sure to clean up anything at your locations that could be a tripping hazard once it is buried under snow or ice.

Our families depend on us so we need to make good decisions while at work so that we can continue to provide for their well-being and return home to them each day. An injury to any of us will not only affect our families, our ability to provide, but it will also affect the company we work for and our team members who have to “fill the gap” left by an out-of-work or injured team member.

Members in the transportation division will have the opportunity to exchange five “I Did It Right” cards for one of the Watco wall clocks.

We must all “FREEZE our” injuries to keep ourselves and our families’ safe – especially through these hectic winter months.
Attitude of Gratitude

by Kris Sherry
Director of Training & Organizational Development

In the spirit of Thanksgiving I started a 21 day challenge called 21 Days of Gratitude. I remembered to be grateful every day. I was grateful for my children, good health, my family, and my friends. I thought I was doing great. Then I started thinking about how thankful I was that I had a great job at a growing and financially healthy company. This is something that many in today’s environment don’t have to be thankful for. Then I started thinking about the team members that I am blessed to work with everyday. I started really checking myself to whether or not I was appreciative enough of the contributions they made. That is when I decided that this month my article would have to be on appreciation.

When was the last time you felt truly appreciated? Chances are you extended that appreciation to others. Studies show that when people feel appreciated, they are more positive about themselves, their work environment and their own ability to bring value. John F. Kennedy said, “We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.”

Upcoming Watco U Courses:

201 January 7-9
201 January 21-23

RAIL Course of the Month:

“Create and Maintain a Positive Work Environment”

Watco University Completions

101 - Aaron Jensen, Project Manager, Stilwell, KS; Annette Lane, Clerk, Peoria, IL; Ashley Stout, Financial Analyst, Loco & Rail, Pittsburg, KS; David Bierman, Bridge Structure Supervisor, Madison, WI; Gary Westphal, Assistant Roadmaster, Horicon, WI; Gilbert Loberg, Accounting Manager, Milwaukee, WI; Gregory Westler, Performance Assurance Engineer Manager, Gilmer, TX; Jeffrey Schroeder, Assistant Roadmaster, Janesville, WI; Joshua McCormack, Regional Safety Manager - East Region, Madison, WI; Kevin Harris, General Manager - Transportation, Austin, TX; Kristopher Hawley, Business Intelligence Manager, Pittsburg, KS; Mark Soots, Chief Mechanical Officer, Cherrysvale, KS; Matthew Austin, Project Manager, Stilwell, KS; Raul Ramos, General Manager - Transportation, San Antonio, TX; Richard Mansfield, Supervisor, Coffeyville, KS; Shaina Kennedy Revenue Account Specialist, Pittsburg, KS; William Kyster Foreman, Mulga, AL.

201 - Bryan Pitts, Assistant Manager - Fleet Management, Pittsburg, KS; Charles Frerich, General Manager - WTPS, Harwood, TX; Matthew Koser, Trainmaster, Madison, WI; Matthew Meekman, Roadmaster, Horicon, WI; Robert Hill, Supervisor, Stanley, ND, Roger Schaalma, Superintendent, Madison, WI.

Contest winners selected for Watco’s 2014 calendar

Last year was the first time Watco Companies produced a calendar featuring a variety of Watco properties. A contest was held and a dark stormy sky was the setting of the winning entry sent in by Jay Hastings of Bartlesville, Okla. This year’s cover features a totally different sky, bright blue with billowing clouds. The photo was taken by Paul Swanson, Wisconsin & Southern Railroad yardmaster. Swanson took some time off and toured part of the country taking photos of trains. His winning entry earned him $500 which was likely less than he spent on food, gas and lodging during his travels. The winning photo was taken of a Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad locomotive at the Williams facility outside of McPherson, Kan. Swanson also had another winning entry - a shot at the new locomotive shop just north of Cherrysvale, Kan.

Judges selected the photos based not only on quality but on how they represented Watco as a whole covering each of the service areas. Other photographs in the calendar were taken by Kyle Moody, Tim Largent, Tim Frenz, Zach Pumphrey, Murray Rowe, Brad Burbin, Greg Williamson, Kyles Mills, Marcus McCalman, Tracie VanBeelaere, John Ryan and Derek Prestholt.

The contest is open to anyone so get your cameras out and start shooting for the 2015 Calendar Contest!

“The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.” - William James.

The photo above was selected as the first place winner of the 2014 Calendar Contest. It will appear on the cover of the calendar and was taken by Paul Swanson, WSOR yardmaster.
Bennie Hill, track repair foreman for the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) knows how to do things big. Bennie was the winner of a big prize drawing, a 55 inch television set.

The SKOL’s TS&IC instated the iSafety program to promote safety among the team members. To be qualified for entry into the drawing, SKOL Team Members must remain incident free for the quarter and they must not have been issued any formal discipline. This quarter’s winner was drawn out of a hat at the last TS&IC meeting in Coffeyville, Kan.

"Might I add, Mr. Hill was shocked and ecstatic to be the winner," said Chad Taylor, SKOL assistant general manager. "He had quite a large smile on his face when presented with the news of winning and receiving the prize."

Bennie has been a part of the SKOL Team since 1991.

Gary Cooley, WSOR southern division MOW section manager won the newly created Team Member Recognition Award.

WSOR section foreman wins first Team Member Recognition Award

Gary Cooley, Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s (WSOR) southern division maintenance of way section formation recently received the Team Safety & Improvement Committee (TS&IC) Team Member Recognition Award.

Gary has been with the WSOR for 22 years and during that time Gary’s safe work practices, devotion, and attention to detail has kept trains on the tracks and team members out of harms way.

"Gary gladly helps team members with track related concerns and cares how everyone is doing at home too. Many of our team members use Gary’s knowledge as a measure to monitor their progress in their careers,” said Steve Ponio, WSOR TS&IC leader. "It’s the strong belief of the TS&IC and the WSOR Team that Gary sets the standard for the Team Member Recognition Award.

Bennie Hill, track repair foreman for the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) knows how to do things big. Bennie was the winner of a big prize drawing, a 55 inch television set.

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SKOL announces 3rd quarter iSafety winner

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WELLNESS REQUIREMENTS FOR 2013

You can still earn or maintain your 10% health plan premium reduction when you and your spouse (if applicable) complete these requirements by December 31, 2013:

- Complete a Wellness Exam
- Enter your Biometrics screening results online

You can view the status of your requirements anytime online at www.watcocompanieshealthplan.com and click on “Your Incentive Checklist.”

If you have any questions about your requirements, please feel free to contact your Care Coordinators at 877-498-1382.
Women of Watco keep on running

There are approximately 360 women working to help keep Watco running but what might be surprising is the number of running women at Watco. Not only are they busy running meetings, running equipment, running households and running errands but there are several that are just flat out running. Darci Spear, Laura Bolt, Mikayla Widick, and Penny Wood are just a handful of the ladies who can add completing a half marathon to their list of accomplishments.

Spear, AOP process manager, has completed a number of races to date and on a very chilly 23 degree day in November she was able to cross a half marathon off her to-do list. “I ran my first 5K on September 29, 2012 and celebrated my 30th birthday weekend running my first 10K on January 26, 2013,” said Spear.

“Running started for me as a way to get back in shape after having my two children, then it became my ‘Me Time’ and it still is...but what really keeps me motivated now is my four year old, Jack,” Spear added. "He loves working out with me and his dad in the garage in the evenings and going for "runs" while we walk the dog. Jack has also started participating in Fun Runs which is so awesome! Knowing I’ve influenced him already, at such a young age to be healthy and active, definitely keeps me running!”

When not busy running trains Laura Bolt, Kaw River Railroad engineer, also hits the pavement. “Running is an outlet for me...I enjoy going out and having some time to myself to think, pray, take in nature and just get away from the craziness of life,” said Bolt. “I can’t say that I’ve lost a lot of weight since taking up running but I definitely feel healthier and know I’m doing something good for myself physically and mentally.”

Setting a positive example for her seven year old daughter is a benefit too. Bolt’s daughter is already on the path to a healthy lifestyle, she enjoys riding her bike with her mom, going out for run/walks and even completed her first 5K with her dad and mom this past summer. Mikayla Widick, who is now a financial analyst for Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Everybody Plays, and Special Olympics, just to name a few.”

These team members are setting a great example on how to perform their jobs safely while meeting the service requirements of our Customers.

SKOL celebrates injury-free anniversary

There was the smell of barbecue in the air throughout southern Kansas and northern Oklahoma on November 21st. The Southeast Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) was celebrating the transportation departments two year injury-free anniversary. The different locations each provided a meal to the members celebrating reaching the benchmark of two years without any injuries.

SKOL Team Members from the Pittsburg, Kan., location relax after enjoying a meal celebrating the two-year safety milestone. Pictured are (l-r back) Jared Brumskill and Rick Hensley. Front is William Casey.

Matt Despos, general manager of the SKOL, said, “We held the cookouts to celebrate this milestone as a thank you to the team. We have a fantastic team in place on the SKOL and they understand the importance of working safe so that they and their fellow team members can go home to their families each and every day.”

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Penny Wood, purchase card and cell phone administrator, finished her first half marathon on a rainy day in late September.

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Deaths

Charles "Rowdy" Blackwood
Retired Eastern Idaho Railroad Team Member

Bradley, known as "Rowdy" to his teammates, was born June 6, 1951, in Rigby, Idaho. He was the son of Clinton and Ellen Blackwood of Filer, Idaho. He had a brother, Clinton Blackwood and sister, Nancy Anthoncy. He was preceded in death by younger brother, Carl Blackwood; his son, Jessie Micheal; and granddaughter, Ember, were the loves of his life. He had two stepsons, Joel and Jordan Daily; and a daughter, Brezzy. Bradley has 10 grandchildren, 11 nieces and nephews; and 34 great-nieces and nephews.

Rowdy worked as an engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad and for the Eastern Idaho Railroad from 1995 until his retirement in 2009. He spent his school years in Filer. His favorite pastime was riding his motorcycle with his friends, going to concerts, playing golf and hanging out at the Oasis. He loved cooking and canning. His home life was always playing golf and hanging out at the Oasis. He loved his motorcycle with his friends, going to concerts, and hanging out at the Oasis. He loved cooking and canning. His home life was always

A memorial service was held Saturday, Nov. 30, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in his kids. Rowdy had been fighting diabetes for about 10 years.

Pittsburg TS&IC Team sponsors Food Drive
The Pittsburg, Kan., Team Safety & Improvement Committee (TS&IC) sponsored a three week food drive through December 13th. Team members that brought in non-perishable foods (minimum 2 per day) or a $2.00 donation got their names put into a weekly drawing for a $15 Dillon's gift card. There was a minimum of five entries per week.

Donations went to the Wesley House in Pittsburg and Souls Harbor in Joplin, Mo. Wesley House provides assistance to the families in the community and anticipates helping 900 families receive food over the winter months. Souls Harbor serves meals to 30 to 40 people each day, and last year the group served over 20,000 meals.

The TS&IC is committed to helping those in the community who need assistance during the holidays. Team members throughout the Watco network are encouraged to donate to those in need during the harsher winter months and holiday season.

Congratulations to the following team members celebrating their anniversaries!

1 Year: Parker Andrew, Melinda Brooksher, Kyle Brown, Brenna Christian, Calvin Everson, Genaro Guzman, Stephen Howard, Kevin Hudspeth, Michelle Ivey, Jason Jewell, Jaime Jurado, Brian King, Keith LaCross, Matthew Lee, Patrick McPhillips, Jennie Morris, Devin Mullins, Warren Officer, Bobby Ornelas, Justin Padilla, James Pearce, Richard Pfuhl, Andrew Post, Charles Sanders, Victor Smith, Ricky Soto, Scott Titus, Fouachee Yang, Fernando Zelaya
2 Years: Michael Antoine, Kristi Bolcik, Dexter Cahill, Jason Cathey, Christopher Corpe, Hector DeHoyos, Thomas DeLafosse, Charles Engels, Brian Grewing, Dana Hartleib, Jeremiah Herman, Kurt Koontz, Ryan Krull, Sherene Metoxen, Travis Muscha, Brent Nettleton, Jesse Dylan Nickell, Steven Peterson, James Raider, Samuel Savelkoul, Aaron Snow, Ronald Solander, Ryan Stroik, Terry Valverde, Jerrod Walls, Christopher Walther, Steven Wisniewski
3 Years: Nolain Bailey, Hector Barrientos, Spencer Batton, John Bowers, Jeffery Davis, Lee Dempsey, Archie Fields, William Gardner, Mike Gonzales, Josiah Gonzalez, Michael Hancock, Austin Lepoglow, Jennifer May, Lisa Powell, Sharon Sexson, David Showalter, Jesse Victoria
4 Years: Robert Aldridge, Timothy Eccles, Earl Evans, George Freeman, Daniel Giacalone, Luke Houston, Donnelle Newton, Charles Price, Shawn Romine, Eugene Stevens, Robert Taylor, Montez Tedford, Dillon Thibodeaux, Joel Wilmot
5 Years: Charles Boyd, Robert Brown, Randy Canada, Ernest Gonzalez, Weston Hamilton, Johnny Jones, Esteban Robles
6 Years: Pedro Balensia, Jeffery Bland, Misael Cervantes, Kurt Kilgore, Steven Reiada, Jeff Washington, Penny Wood
7 Years: Eddie Arredondo, Daniel Brewer, Joshua Hargis, Richard Hensley, Peter Mars, Bruce Martin, Transito Pedraza, Rafael Ramirez, Jon Tavernaro, Nathan Van Buren
8 Years: Cedric Bonner, Matt Drake, Michael Kissel, Joe Mercer, Joshua Williams
9 Years: Rafael Hernandez, Crezentia Van Beelaere, Barry White
10 Years: Johnnie Brown, Anthony Clark, John Edwards, Ismael Mondragon
11 Years: Craig Richey, Calvin Turner
12 Years: Roy Buckhalter, Denver Conley, Ernesto Elizondo, Johnny Johnson, David Larch, Larry Lever
14 Years: Thomas Cooper, Joel Estermeyer, Charles Karamales
15 Years: Ricky Absher
16 Years: Samuel Greenfield, Jason Stutzman, Anthony Tillman
18 Years: Bryan Miller, Roger Schaalma
19 Years: Michael Carr
21 Years: John Byrd, Jean Kincade
22 Years: Danny Anderes, Robert Washington
23 Years: James Horner, Claude McGuff
26 Years: Leonard Anderson, Rodney King, Michael McGinn, Manfred Nelly, Allen Oltjenbruns
34 Years: Henderson Carmichael, Joseph Escott, John Herron
39 Years: Phyllis Dickerson
43 Years: John Cole
If you want a good leading indicator of what the economy is doing you need to look no further than Watco’s Greens Port Industrial Park. In late October Phase I of the Mercuria Crude Oil Terminal began operations. The Greens Port Crude by Rail Team (GCBR) received the first unit train of Bakken and safely discharged it though the first 18 rack track spots. This terminal is part of the KW Express joint venture between Kinder Morgan and Watco. Its success from concept through construction and into operations has touched on all aspects of both companies.

The day to day operations within Greens Port involve GCBR, Watco Dock and Rail (WDRL), who is providing the switching, and Houston Mechanical Services who are providing railcar inspection and repair services. The terminal is also supported through the Greens Port Dock and Facility Operations departments.

GCBR is connected via pipeline to the Magellan Terminal to the west. In the first quarter of 2014 Phase II will come on line with 70 railcar spots, 250,000 bbls of tankage and the ability to load and unload barges.

Greens Port is focused on safety, growth, Customers Service and team member development. No sooner had the first crude train arrived when a unit train of ethanol for Musket arrived (planned carefully of course). WTPS Team Members never missed a beat and worked both trains simultaneously. Then, to keep things interesting, the WDRL rail department had the opportunity to receive a unit coil train for Nucor. The team welcomed the challenge and handled all three.

Greens Port Vice President Tim Holan said, “Increasingly Greens Port Team Members have the ability to showcase all of Watco’s service offerings for a diverse Customer base. We’re proud to be able and represent our Company in the Gulf Coast.”

The women and men of Watco Mechanical Houston, Watco Leasing and Switching, Watco Dock & Rail, Houston Ethanol, and Greens Port Crude by Rail are proud to call Greens Port The Leading Indicator.